

## **MONTANA WOLF PROGRAM - WEEKLY REPORT**

**TO:** Interested Parties  
**FROM:** Ken McDonald, Wildlife Bureau Chief  
**SUBJECT:** Wolf Program Activities and Related Information  
**WEEK OF:** July 30–August 5, 2011

Contributors to the Montana Wolf Weekly are Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), Universities, USDA Wildlife Services (WS), the National Park Service (NPS; Glacier NP; Yellowstone National Park will be reported in the Wyoming Wolf Weekly), US Forest Service, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, and the Blackfeet Nation.

Highlighted activities relate to: monitoring, wolf-livestock interactions, outreach and education, research, law enforcement, and other miscellaneous topics of public interest. The Weekly Report will be available each Monday, covering the previous week. It and other wolf program information (including the 2009 annual report) can be found on the FWP website.

### **WOLF MONITORING ACTIVITIES:**

Flights: 7/31, 8/1, 8/4 – Bradley conducted monitoring flights in western MT.

Smucker and Rowan followed up on reports of wolves on private property west of Florence and confirmed at least 2 adults and 5-6 pups. Traps are set to try to radio-collar and adult. A pup was caught on 8/3 but was too small to collar. At this point it is unknown if this is the Brooks Creek pack or a new pack.

Smucker and Rowan are trapping in the Bitterroot Valley near Florence. Bradley, FWP volunteer Tyler Parks, Ben Jimenez, and John Callon (Bitterroot elk project) have been running a trapline for the Sula pack at the south end of the valley and have been scouting both the west and east forks for other wolf activity. Three pups have been confirmed in the Sula pack.

Whitehead and Evans began a trap line to collar a wolf in the Firefighter pack.

Laudon, Panning, and Werhahn ran trap lines in the Marias, Great Northern packs and a new pack around the West Glacier/Coram area. Traps in Marias were pulled after a grizzly bear hit both sets.

### **WOLF-LIVESTOCK ACTIVITIES:**

7/31: WS confirmed that a yearling had been injured by a wolf or wolves on private land near Wisdom. WS has been authorized to collar and release a wolf to learn more on the specifics of wolf activity in the area.

8/1: WS investigated a dead calf in the Polaris area and determined it to be unconfirmed as there wasn't much of the carcass left. The carcass had sign of bears and coyotes that had been feeding on it as well.

8/1: WS investigated a report of a dead calf on public land near Augusta. WS confirmed that it had been bitten and injured previously by a wolf and confirmed that a grizzly bear had killed the calf. There has been recent wolf activity in this area with the Monitor Mtn collared wolf and recent grizzly bear depredations and activity as well. No wolf management action will occur from this incident.

8/2: WS confirmed that a yearling was injured on private ground by a wolf near Wisdom. WS has been authorized to collar and release a wolf to learn more on the current wolf activity.

8/2: WS confirmed that wolves killed a cow on private land east of Helena. WS has been authorized to collar and release a wolf in this area to learn more about the wolf activity in the area.

8/3: WS confirmed 2 calves as killed by a new pack in the Pleasant Valley area. Depredations and subsequent control actions to remove wolves have been ongoing since June.

**OUTREACH AND EDUCATION:** Nothing to report.

**RESEARCH ACTIVITIES:** Nothing to report.

**LAW ENFORCEMENT AND RELATED ACTIVITIES:** Nothing to report.

**OTHER UPDATES:** Nothing to report.

To learn more about Montana's wolf population, the Montana program and to help FWP monitor wolves by reporting wolf sign, visit FWP online. Use the following shortcut link and be sure to update your bookmarks: <http://fwp.mt.gov/wolf>

To anonymously report a dead or injured wolf or suspected illegal activity, call: 1-800-TIP-MONT or 1-800-847-6668.

To request an investigation of injured or dead livestock, call USDA Wildlife Services directly in western Montana / Helena area at 406-458-0106 or in eastern Montana at the statewide office at 406-657-6464. Or, call your nearest FWP representative to have your call referred to Wildlife Services.

If you have a confirmed or probable livestock death loss due to wolves, USDA Wildlife Services will supply you with a copy of the Loss Reimbursement Application form. For more information, see <http://liv.mt.gov/liv/LM/index.asp> Or, contact the Livestock Loss Reduction and Mitigation Program Coordinator, George Edwards at the Montana Department of Livestock at 406-444-5609.